

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0346

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR DA

SUBJECT: HELSINGOR CONFERENCE: SCHMIDT'S ARGUMENT
AGAINST COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

DURING MY JAN 29 CONVERSATION WITH PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY CHRISTIANSEN OF THE DANISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, HE DESCRIBED THE TELLING EFFECT THAT HELMUT SCHMIDT MADE ON HIS COLLEAGUES IN REBUTTING MITTERRAND'S ARGUMENT URGING COOPERATION WITH COMMUNIST PARTIES. SCHMIDT, WHOM CHRISTIANSEN DESCRIBED AS THE "TOWERING FIGURE" OF THE CONFERENCE, ARGUED THAT COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN FRENCH GOVERNMENT MIGHT WELL JEOPARDIZE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FRENCH ARMY AS A FIGHTING FORCE. ALL OF THE SOCIALIST LEADERS PRESENT ACCEPTED SCHMIDT'S ASSERTION THAT THE ONLY EFFECTIVE WESTERN EUROPEAN FIGHTING FORCES ARE THE GERMANS AND THE FRENCH. A DILUTING OR WEAKENING OF FRENCH MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS WOULD BE HARMFUL TO ALL OF WESTERN EUROPE BECAUSE OF NATO'S NEED FOR FRENCH FORCES IN A CONFRONTATION WITH THE WARSAW PACT.
DEAN

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